

The Standing Committee on
Finance & Public Administration,
The Senate
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Sirs/Mesdames,

It is with some concern that I have heard about the *Plebiscite for an Australian Republic Bill 2008*. Of even greater concern is the lack of publicity surrounding it, resulting in very limited opportunities for its opponents to respond.

The people have already expressed their view on this matter in 1999 so a further vote is premature and a waste of money. This is even more true of a plebiscite which cannot alter the Constitution, and would therefore require yet another vote if successful.

It is clear that a simple YES/NO answer is inadequate to deal with this complex matter, and could result in the eventual referendum question not allowing those wishing to retain the crown the ability to vote that way.

The proposed change is also ill advised. We already have an Australian head of state appointed on the advice of the Australian Government. The function of the crown in this appointment has ensured that the Governor General has been above party politics. This potentially protects us from a political party, with high numerical control of power, setting up a dictatorship. This may not seem a present likelihood, but it is a future possibility. There are people in our world today who do not believe in democracy, not only as it effects the processes of government, but more importantly as it protects the freedom of minorities to act and speak according to their convictions. Some of these are present in our country.

I therefore implore those who have the power to do so, to prevent this measure from occurring.

Yours sincerely,